

# KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 65, No. 38  
Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

## INSIDE

### COMMENTARY

Shelter skelter, **2**

### TRAINING

#### AND EDUCATION

Sheppard to rescue, **4**

Testing resumes, **6**

### NEWS

#### AND FEATURES

Stepping up, **8**

Trick or treat is on, **11**

Aid by truckload, **12**

Hobby shop open, **14**

"Worst of worst," **16**

"Doing business," **18**

Katrina sinks cruise, **19**

PT uniform wear, **20**

Retirement briefings, **22**

### SPORTS

#### AND RECREATION

Base bowls on, **23**

### SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2**

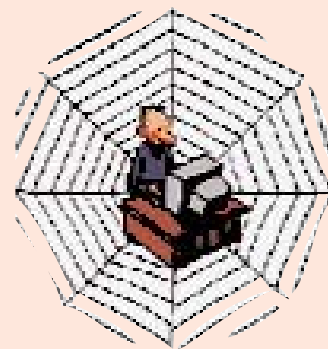
Training and education..**4-6**

News and features.....**8-22**

Happenings.....**21**

Sports and recreation.....**23**

Digest.....**24**



Keesler News on Web:  
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## Hurricane Hunters, Flying Jennies 403rd Wing fliers return Wednesday

### 403rd Wing Public Affairs

Keesler people who look to the sky Wednesday can see a steady flow of WC-130J and C-130J-30 aircraft on their approach to the runway.

The remainder of the 403rd Wing's operations is scheduled to return from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., where

they've been since Hurricane Katrina plowed through the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

"In the aftermath of Katrina, the 403rd Wing continued its dual missions of hurricane reconnaissance and tactical airlift without missing a single tasking," said Col. Michael Underkofler, 403rd Oper-

ations Group commander. "It was necessary to deploy our aircraft to Georgia, as well as aircrew, maintenance and support personnel who kept operations going.

"It wasn't possible for us to return home until damage assessments and relief

Please see **403rd Wing**, Page 9

## Clarification: Time off, Family Day

The eight-hour time-off award for federal civilian employees and the Nov. 14 Air Education and Training Command Family Day, for military members are different, according to Lee Hathorn, Keesler's civilian personnel officer.

"Although regulations don't give a 'free' down day to civilians, they may use the time-off award to observe the down day," Mr. Hathorn said. "Since Nov. 14 is a nine-hour day at Keesler, civilians have to tack on an extra hour of annual leave to make up the entire work day," he continued. "The time is pro-rated for part-time employees."

Mr. Hathorn said civilians may also choose to save the time-off award and use nine hours of annual leave or earned comp time or work Nov. 14.

Both the time-off award for federal civilian employees and Family Day for AETC military members were designated by Gen. William Looney, AETC commander, in recognition of the command's Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.



## Keesler assists hurricane victims on Keller Street

Chaplain (Capt.) Ann Luna shovels Hurricane Katrina debris from the porch of a home on Keller Street in Biloxi Friday. She's one of 55 volunteers from various 81st Training Wing units who cleaned up five houses in the neighborhood off Division Street that were flooded by the hurricane's storm surge Aug. 29. More photos, Page 17.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

# 403rd Wing,

from Page 1

efforts at Keesler slowed down,” he explained.

Hurricane Hunters from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron have continued to fly tropical storms and hurricanes during one of the busiest and costliest seasons on record.

In addition, the 815th Airlift Squadron, known as the Flying Jennies, has provided airlift support and even flew relief missions back to Keesler, their home base.

Maintenance teams kept

the aircraft running and support personnel took care of all the needs of those deployed. About 150 reservists and civilians were deployed at any one time.

“The 403rd Wing is made up of reservists and civilian employees, most of whom live in and are a part of this community,” said Colonel Underkofler.

“Despite the fact many of our people lost everything to Hurricane Katrina, they all returned to work quickly and pitched in to support their neighbors on the Gulf Coast and throughout the Atlantic basin by providing vital data to the National Hurricane Center that increased the

accuracy of forecasts by 30 percent.

“Now that we have the infrastructure to support our mission and our people at Keesler, we’re bringing the rest of our family home,” he added.

Lt. Col. Brian Freeman, who is the detachment commander at Dobbins, praised his troops for their ability to excel in these circumstances.

“It’s been a monumental achievement continuing operations at Dobbins, but now that the infrastructure can support us, it’s time to bring us back home so we can begin rebuilding our lives and continue our mission at Keesler,” he said.



## 5 days of shelter skelter with 730 'Natives'

By Lt. Col. Randy Coats

333rd Training Squadron commander

Command. There's no better job in the world. Or so I thought. What changed my mind? Four words— "shelter commander" and "Hurricane Katrina."

From Aug. 28 to Sept. 2, I lived with 730 of my "closest friends" in 50-year-old Bryan Hall. It was unlike anything I'd experienced before.

First, you have to understand some basics. My shelter is unique. Most shelters here are dedicated primarily to one unit. I have all the active-duty and family members from a wide variety of units. The building is an old nuclear fallout shelter, with no windows and no showers. With that in mind, I offer these memories and thoughts on Hurricane Katrina.

### Aug. 25 (Thursday)

One of my master sergeants points out Katrina "may grow into something over the weekend" and suggests we update our shelter and evacuation data sheets. I tell him, "That's not a bad idea," then promptly forget to do anything.

### Aug. 27 (Saturday)

Two crisis action team meetings. Katrina has strengthened and is headed our way, due to arrive Monday afternoon. Tentatively plan to open shelters Monday morning. I remember the master sergeant's words and begin repeating every officer's golden rule, "Never ignore a senior NCO."

### Aug. 28 (Sunday)

Turn on CNN before heading to 8 a.m. CAT meeting. Radar picture shows Katrina is Category 5, covering the whole Gulf of Mexico and headed straight for us, due to arrive before dawn Monday.

**10 a.m.:** Initiate full recall and order all personnel to evacuate or shelter by 9 p.m. Many people out of town. Accountability is a nightmare.

**5 p.m.:** Open the shelter. People and families begin arriving. Stop two refrigerators, one 21-inch TV set and three mattresses at the door. Draft students to help carry bags into the shelter. Tell people to bring food and water for three days. Most bring food for two days; smokers bring cigarettes for 20 days. Have to break the news — no smoking inside the shelter and once you're checked in you can't go outside.

**10 p.m.:** Doors locked and boarded up from the outside by civil engineers (one door in an alcove left uncovered).

### Aug. 29 (Monday)

**5 a.m.:** Wind howling; can hear it best through vents in bathrooms. It didn't sound like this during Hurricane Ivan last year.

**8 a.m.:** Shelterees (hereafter referred to as "the Natives") start moving around 8 a.m. Smokers looking for nicotine fix, but remain calm.

**10 a.m.:** Local news reports indicate rising waters, violent winds. Plywood ripped from external doorways. I'm uneasy; plywood has never moved in previous storms, much less flown away.

**Noon:** News reports 20-plus feet of water in Biloxi mall. Natives anxious. Smokers jittery.

**Afternoon:** Power goes out; generators kick in. Not good. Civil engineers say power can only go out if high-tension cables that survived 200-mph winds during Hurricane Camille go down. Air conditioning stops working; ventilation fans stop working. No windows, no open doors, 731 nervous people in Mississippi in August. Ask for generator fuel status and burn rate. Have enough fuel for two days.

Natives who smoke starting to visibly shake.

Cable TV goes out. Natives get creative with antennas. Spot the bottom half of an NCO sticking out from under ceiling tiles. Apparently reception is better if you connect a stripped copper communications cable from the TV to pipes in the ceiling. I appoint a safety observer and hope for the best.

Civil engineers report primary generator has flames coming out of it, so it's shut off. Lose Internet. Down to one generator; power only in hallways and a few rooms.

Water stops running. Toilets overflowing. With medical advice, I brief the Natives on how to use plastic bags for toilet facilities. Disposal of plastic bags in a sealed building is a concern. Adventurous major goes into the basement and finds 1961-vintage Civil Defense survival sanitation kits. Basically, a 3-foot tall cardboard porta-potty with a hole cut in the top. This doesn't look like fun. However, 44-year old toilet paper is surprisingly soft.

One hour later, water comes back, thanks to civil engineers going out in the storm to repair pumping station. I hug the first 81st CES troop I can find. Sanitation kits thankfully not used, but on standby.

Civil engineers coming off shift report half of flight line under water; water in base exchange and commissary 6 feet deep and rising; trees down all over base; their building collapsed. Natives begin to get the picture — this is worse than hurricanes Ivan or Dennis.

### Evening

**6 p.m.:** Winds still dangerous so can't open doors. It's hot and humid. Natives are getting cranky. Smokers showing signs of extreme duress. One is carrying two unlit cigarettes around. I suggest he tear one open and put it behind his lip for a nicotine fix. He says he's already eaten an entire pack and it didn't help. I pat him on the back and wish him luck.

Babies and young kids getting grumpy; too hot to nap.

Barely-visible news on very fuzzy TV picture reports massive devastation in the area. Dead silence in hallway as Natives crowd around the lone TV with a discernible picture. Tension rising.

**8 p.m.:** Too hot to breathe. So many nervous Natives generate a lot of sweat and a variety of smells. Command post says stay locked down, don't open doors. Natives make strange noises when I walk by. Not sure the "shelter commander" badge is a good thing to be wearing right now.

First sergeant reports Natives consider me the embodiment of evil.

Cops go on shift. The best NCO in the Air Force is assigned to patrol base housing; he offers to try to check on my cat (we left her in the hallway of my house).

**9 p.m.:** Even hotter. Poked my head outside — it's ugly, but winds have died down. Command post says stay buttoned up. Natives mumbling in small groups about how to eliminate a commander. Survival instincts tell me to get some air in here. Post Marines at every exit and open all the doors. I'm a hero. Haven't heard "thank you" this much since I put my shirt back on at the squadron pool party.

**10 p.m.:** Smokers running out of cigarettes to eat. Open a side door and rope off a 10-foot square smoking area. No more than five people at a time; no more than five minutes. Everyone loves me.

### Aug. 30 (Tuesday)

**1:45 a.m.:** One of my NCOs wakes me up because, "Cops want to talk to you, sir." Security forces NCO is direct: "The good news is, your cat is fine." As he hands back my house key, he adds, "The bad news is I didn't need this to get into your house." Doesn't register, "How'd you get in?" He looked me straight in the eye and said, "I walked through your back wall." That can't be good at all. My wife is on a cot in the hallway. I woke her up to give her the news. Her response? "I guess it'll be easy to pack when we move next year." She's getting anything she wants for Christmas ... forever. Spend the rest of the night thinking of how to stay focused and project a positive attitude, given that all my worldly possessions probably fit in a gym bag.

**7 a.m.:** Bad news spreads like wildfire. Entire shelter knows about my house. Lots of supportive comments as I wander the halls, but I see the struggle behind the words — they're sorry for my loss, but worry about their own. Their concern for my family despite fears for their own touches me deeply. First time in 19 years I've really had to fight back tears. As I walk the hallways I truly feel "the burden of command." My family is safe; I have to push my losses aside for now. These 730 people have no access to information other than what I tell them. I'm their link to the outside world. I see them watching me, watching how I react and looking for cues as they try to figure out how they should feel. I realize their mood over the next few days will be a direct reflection of what they perceive as my mood. I've been tested in command before, but never like this.

**8 a.m.:** Drive to CAT meeting across base. Devastation is shocking. Trees down everywhere. Cars trashed everywhere. Windows out. Walls out. Buildings collapsed. Roofs ripped apart.

**9:30 a.m.:** Mass briefing to the Natives. Most uncomfortable briefing I've ever given. Reports indicate widespread devastation. Death toll probably in the hundreds. Power out for at least three

Please see **Coats**, Page 3

## KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,  
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,  
2004, 1998, 1996;

No. 2, 2003, 2001,  
1999, 1997, 1991;

No. 3, 2002, 1995.

### 81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. William Lord

### Public affairs director

Lt. Col. Claudia Foss

### Editor

Perry Jenifer

### Staff writers

Susan Griggs

Staff Sgt.

Lee Smith

Senior Airman

Sarah Stegman

### Staff photographer

Kemberly Groue

The Keesler News office is in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3163, 3837, 7340. Publication date: Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Classified advertising deadline: see Classified section. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW and as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. The appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be made available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.

## Coats,

from Page 2

weeks. Must begin water conservation. Minimum three months to resume mission. Won't leave shelter for at least three days. All 730 stunned and scared faces focus on me. All are easy to read — realization of how bad it is and fear of what it did to their homes. Worst possible situation for a commander — troops need reassurance I can't give.

**Afternoon:** Supplies running out. Most critical shortfalls: food, diapers, baby food and feminine hygiene products. Issue meals-ready-to-eat for adults. Assign "baby point of contact" to track baby supplies. Develop new metric for morning and evening briefings — diaper burn rate. Seventeen infants in shelter times five diapers a day and four jars of baby food a day. Have only one-day supply of diapers, two days of baby food. Submit urgent supply request to command post. Luckily, sanitation kits include 44-year old feminine products.

Still no cable TV and no Internet. Information is life. I average no more than 10 steps before someone stops me to ask what's going on outside.

Pregnant Native goes into premature labor. Ambulance takes her to hospital.

Another uncomfortable night. All Natives report profuse sweating in lieu of sleep. Set up special room with lots of fans for children. Authorize chaplain to take a small raiding party to chapel next door to get rocking chairs for parents with small children.

### Aug. 31 (Wednesday)

After 36-plus hours with no air conditioning and no showers, 731 Natives stink. Shelter stinks. Shirt reports Natives blame it all on me. Wife asks if I can boost Servicemember's Group Life Insurance from here. Task my most creative NCO to come up with some way to hose people off. Result: water hose connected to sink in bathroom supply closet, with sandbag walls leading to drain in center of bathroom. No hot water, but showers are a success. Still rationing water — three-minute shower every other day. Natives can wash away the stink for at least 10 minutes or until they start sweating again. I'm a hero.

Two cases of dehydration evacuated to hospital. I'm dehydrated, nauseous and weak, despite drinking constantly. Can't believe I let this happen. Check with medics, but saline solution is in short supply, and if I'm still walking I don't need it bad enough. They give me some good drugs to control symptoms. Eight hours, 240 ounces of water and 9,000 bathroom breaks later, I feel better.

Lots of debris around the building. Still dangerous for people to go outside,

but Natives are getting stir-crazy.

Assign a team to clear and rope off an area near the building. Post guards to ensure nobody wanders off and then allow small groups outside for fresh air for short periods of time. They love me.

Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st Training Wing commander, reads off list of inbound aid at CAT meeting. Not the same as hearing it on TV. I never imagined it would mean so much to know that so many people are focused on helping you.

Baby supplies critical. Wing commander orders a raid on what's left of commissary and base exchange. Deliveries to shelters save the day.

Another bad briefing to the Natives. Only one way to explain why they can't leave the shelter — tell the truth as I know it. Looting rampant off-base. Looters in base housing. Air Force member carjacked outside the gate. No gas in area; \$5 per gallon three hours away. Chaos in New Orleans moving our way. Extra security forces with .50-caliber machine guns on Humvees en route to help secure the base.

Natives frantic about their homes. They fear anything that survived the storm won't survive looters. Try to focus them on aid headed our way. Emotions running high. One woman goes into shock; evacuated to hospital.

Another sweaty, sleepless night. Natives apparently locate world's largest stock of extension cords. Conservative estimates indicate we're running 500 fans off five power outlets and 2,000 extension cords. Confiscate the most impressive daisy chains as safety hazards. Brief shelter management team to increase fire checks of the building.

### Sept. 1 (Thursday)

Can't release people to return to homes overnight due to security concerns. However, must let Natives assess their homes or risk bodily harm trying to keep them here. Strict guidelines — provide written route of travel; must have a wingman; no dependents can go; maximum of one hour to save what you can and return to shelter; must be decontaminated before reentering shelter because many houses have sludge and sewage. Lieutenants do great job controlling departure and decontamination lines.

Natives return to shelter. Many are homeless. Commander school never taught me how to respond to "I have nothing left" or how to comfort women and men crying uncontrollably in my arms. Some cry for what they lost, some for what they saw. News reports didn't prepare them for seeing not just their home, but their entire neighborhood destroyed, or for the cops telling them the bad smell was probably neighbors who tried to ride out the storm and were buried in the rubble. My only consolation is I know how they feel. The stink in the house made me gag; the mud was

goosey, sticky and got on everything. My wife spent years building a beautiful collection of Amish figurines. Seeing the trail of broken figures across two yards was painful to endure. Crabs running across my feet in the bedroom scare the bee-geezus out of me.

In an attempt to improve morale, the chow hall next to the shelter opens for one hot meal of whatever was available. Natives happily wait in line two-plus hours for rice with spaghetti sauce and a piece of bread. It's like Grandma's Thanksgiving dinner.

Third straight day of gorgeous weather. Security still a big concern. Natives don't care, they just want out. Shelter commanders compare notes at CAT meeting. We're all seriously concerned about tempers rising in the shelters. Believe the Natives are just about at the breaking point.

### Sept. 2 (Friday)

Security situation better. Natives are about worn out. Wing commander authorizes release from shelters. Six days and five nights we'll never forget, and the recovery efforts have only just begun.

To say that Hurricane Katrina has been a "life event" would be an understatement. I saw the best and the worst of people first-hand. Some sat in their little piece of floor space and watched others work to make the situation better. Most looked for opportunities to help others and to make our little slice of Hell a little more comfortable. I was amazed at how easy it was to read their faces. I could see clearly as fear changed to shock, disbelief, then anger. I watched in amazement as the anger was replaced with a calm sense of resolve to move forward and do what needed to be done. From the little boy I found wandering the halls at midnight to the lieutenants who stepped up, took charge when I asked and showed all of us what "officership" is all about, every person in that shelter taught me their own unique and valuable lesson about command.

The 81st CES troops and the cops in my shelter taught me the meaning of dedication. I watched them tramp in and out throughout the storm and its aftermath. They always took time to find someone whose house they checked on, and stopped by to give me an update on what they saw.

My wing commander described it perfectly a few days after the storm. Some puffed-up colonel called him in the CAT and said "general so-and-so is coming down there. I want to know who the most important person on that base is, and I want their name right now." The boss' response was classic. "Well, colonel, the most important person on this base is a staff sergeant with a chainsaw, and if you'll give me 10 minutes, I'll get that name for you."



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Keesler course receives assist from Sheppard

By John Ingle

### 82nd Training Wing Public Affairs

SHEPPARD Air Force Base, Texas — Sheppard recently began a new electronic principles course to train Keesler Airmen displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Master Sgt. Rosa Marlin, 365th Training Squadron avionics test equipment flight chief, said it usually takes six months to a year for a new course to begin. It took Sheppard two weeks to have the course ready for instruction.

### Team challenge

"I'm impressed by everybody across the board," the 20-year veteran said of the efforts to get the class going. "It was a challenge and (the instructors) took it on and love it. It's happening."

With the pipeline at a virtual standstill for projected Keesler Airmen, the Air Force needed a way to continue their training.

Since Sheppard is a follow-on assignment for electronic principles Airmen from Keesler, it seemed like a natural fit to have the training stand up at Sheppard to get the student pipeline moving again.

### Storm displaces airmen

After Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast region Aug. 29, thousands of Keesler Airmen were displaced.

About 1,000 were evacuated to Sheppard. Now, most of the Airmen have either returned to Keesler or to their Reserve or Air National Guard bases.

"When the storm hit, (training courses) were shut off and put on hold," Sergeant Marlin said.

About 130 displaced Airmen began the 27-day theory-based course recently. The

"It kind of turns us all into students because we have to go home at night and learn how to teach it."

— Sergeant Barnett

Airmen were in various stages of their training.

James Angell, 365th TRS training support flight chief, said some students were far enough into a block of training that they were able to advance to the next block.

"It was a good buy for the Air Force," Mr. Angell said of the new course at Sheppard.

Airmen who have completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, have also been sent to Sheppard to begin the course. More than 100 Airmen arrived Sept. 26 from the South Texas base and began training Oct. 3.

More Airmen are expected on a weekly basis.

Sergeant Marlin said the seven-block course is taught on a day shift and mid shift with 40 Airmen on each shift.

Staff Sgt. James Barnett, a first-time instructor at the 365th TRS, said the Airmen were ready to get back into the classroom.

But, he said it was almost like he was going back to school.

"It kind of turns us all into students because we have to go home at night and learn how to teach it," he said.

To prepare for the course, Sergeant Barnett said he used

Tech. Sgt. Michael Wheeler, a three-year veteran instructor at the squadron, as a student. The two interacted as an instructor and student would to prepare the staff sergeant for his first class.

### Back in classroom

Airman 1st Class Robert Davis, a native of Meridian, Miss., assigned to the 186th Airborne Refueling Wing at Key Field in Meridian, said he and his fellow trainees are glad to be able to begin their training again.

"When we were at (student awaiting training) status, we pretty much did details," he said. "We felt idle. We were ready to get back to training."

Now in Block 3 of electronic principles training, Airman Davis said he had to refresh a little after not looking at materials for about a month. But, he said it's coming back to him.

"I passed my Block 2 test, so that's a good thing," he said. "Evidently I'm not too rusty."

### Keesler bounces back

When Keesler resumed technical training in mid-September, nearly six months earlier than originally projected, 139 electronic principles trainees were among the first 635 students to return to the classrooms. The number is expected to continue to grow from week to week.

Sergeant Marlin said she doesn't know what the future holds for the course at Sheppard, but for now, she and the 365th TRS are dedicated to providing the training needed to keep the pipeline going.

Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

## Testing resumes

Testing has resumed for all programs administered by the education office.

Make appointments in Room 212, old Cody Hall or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Tests are given in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## Grants for grads

All fall 2005 Community College of the Air Force graduates may apply for a Pitsenbarger Award sponsored by the Aerospace Education Foundation.

The six Pitsenbargers allocated to Keesler provide a one-time cash award of \$500 to selected top Air Force enlisted people graduating from CCAF and pursuing or planning to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Applications for grants are available at the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or may be downloaded from the Aerospace Education Foundation Association Web site, <http://www.aef.org/aid/pit.asp>.

Applications are due to the education office by 4 p.m. Nov. 7.

For more information, call 377-2323 or 2171.

## Foreign study

The Olmsted Scholar Program provides an opportunity for at least 10 Air Force line officers to study abroad and earn a master's degree in a foreign language.

Send applications to HQ AFPC/DPAFE, 550 C St. West Suite 36, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4734 by Nov. 18.

For more information, go to the Officer Developmental Education Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/fds/dpafe.htm>, or visit the military personnel flight in old Cody Hall.

## Carey registration

Registration for students enrolling at William Carey College for the first time is 1-8 p.m. Nov. 11 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 12.

Registration is at the First Missionary Baptist Church, 1100 East Pass Road, Gulfport.

For more information, call 377-0090.

## CCAF postponement

The Nov. 8 Community College of the Air Force graduation will be combined with the spring ceremony.

The postponement is due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Becky Green, education office, 377-2323.

## Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal. Log on

through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option to begin. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

## Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees assigned to Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related and taken through a regionally accredited college or university.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

## Troops to Teachers

For general information on Troops to Teachers, visit <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/index2.htm>.

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

## Physical therapy class

Applications are accepted through Nov. 25 at the Air Force Personnel Center for the doctor of physical therapy program.

The class begins Dec. 17 at the Health Sciences Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ravin McCray, 377-9630.



# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Second STEP

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Gates, left, works with Senior Airman Christopher Ross on a network switch in the 81st Communications Squadron, where both are assigned. Sergeant Gates was promoted to his current rank Sept. 22 through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. He enlisted in the Navy in 1995 as a medic and was promoted to petty officer second class through the Career Advancement Program, the Navy's STEP equivalent. He's been at Keesler since he re-entered active duty two years ago as a communications-computer systems controller. He's been involved in the major rebuilding of the base's network and was a key member of the team that maintained communications during Hurricane Katrina.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## 'The command of choice' AETC's leader outlines new objectives

By 2nd Lt. Jon Carlo

### Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL Air Force Base, Ala. — Gen. William Looney, Air Education and Training Command commander, has big plans to transform the command of recruiting, training and educating into what he calls "the command of choice."

During a recent visit here, General Looney, who took command of AETC in June, stressed the importance of ensuring each Airman assigned to the command gets a variety of career benefits which will attract individuals to become instructors at AETC installations.

"We have to make sure an assignment in AETC is professionally rewarding, challenging, and most importantly, enhancing to one's career prospects, and we must also ensure Airmen feel as though they are continuing in an upward vector with regard to their career aspirations," General Looney said.

The general said to attract the best, leaders and supervisors should ensure the quality of life personnel at AETC installations is second to none.

"If we attack it from both the approach that it is a professionally rewarding and enhancing assignment, along with the fact the quality of life Airmen and their families enjoy is unsurpassed, then we will have people getting in line to come to AETC," the general said.

To maintain those standards, General Looney

is implementing a management system called the balanced scorecard, a strategic planning tool to measure AETC's success in specific areas.

General Looney wants AETC to be recognized as the world-class standard for education and training. After seeing how well the balanced scorecard program worked at his last two commands, the Electronic Systems Center and the Aeronautical Systems Center, he decided to "swing for the fence" again at AETC.

According to the general, there are specific objectives at AETC for the three pillars of recruiting, training and educating. Each objective has a measurement tied to it, which indicates whether or not the objective is met, exceeded or not met. If the objective isn't met, leaders will seek a new initiative that closes the gap between expectations and where AETC stands.

One example is balancing work and down time, which can be measured by looking at the average leave balance at the end of each year.

"Balancing work and play so there is time for family and creating professional opportunities for our personnel is extremely important," General Looney said.

AETC leadership hopes to have the system implemented at the command level by mid-2006. It will then reach Air University and continue to each school.

## IN THE NEWS

### New leader for 2nd Air Force

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould succeeds Maj. Gen. Chip Utterback as commander of 2nd Air Force, 10 a.m. Nov. 9 on the parade field.

General Gould comes to Keesler from Royal Air Force, Mildenhall, England, where he commanded 3rd Air Force.

General Utterback becomes deputy commander of Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

### Base changes command Nov. 15

The 81st Training Wing changes command at 9 a.m. Nov. 15 on the parade field.

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, currently director of command, control, communications and computer systems for U.S. Transportation Command, assumes command from Brig. Gen. William Lord.

General Lord, who's been selected for promotion to the rank of major general, will be director of information, services and integration in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer at the Pentagon.

### Daylight Saving Time ends

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Set clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

### Town hall meeting

A town hall meeting is 2:30 p.m. Friday at Welch Auditorium.

Upcoming changes of command, commissary, base exchange, dependents, schools, claims, assignments, A-76 status, priority technical training, entitlements, housing and dormitory update, lodging, medical care services and humanitarian projects will be discussed.

### Air Force meets recruiting goals

#### Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force exceeded its fiscal 2005 enlisted recruiting goal by sending 19,222 men and women to basic military training.

The service had success recruiting for Officer Training School, but fell short in some medical fields. The Air Force recruited 753 health professionals against a requirement of 1,123, but recruited 727 line officers against a goal of 720, and 35 chaplains against a goal of 31.

The Air Force began the fiscal year with a reduced recruiting goal of 24,465, part of force-shaping measures to meet the congressionally-mandated end strength of 359,700 Airmen. The goal was cut again in January to 18,900.

### Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Nov. 17 issue of the Keesler News is noon Nov. 10, four days earlier than usual.

The early deadline is due to the designation of Nov. 14 as a "down day" across Air Education and Training Command by Gen. William Looney, AETC commander.

The newspaper office is closed Nov. 11 in observance of the Veterans Day federal holiday and Nov. 14 in observance of the "down day."

# PERSONNEL NOTES

**Editor's note:** This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

## Airline ticket credit process

If an airline ticket was purchased with a government travel card, apply for the airline credit through your travel agent or airline.

If credit isn't received within 30-45 days, call the Government Card Service Unit to file a dispute. The phone number is on the back of the card.

The bank requires a copy of the credit voucher for the unused ticket or refund. The credit voucher must include the name of the airline, date the ticket was purchased and ticket number.

For more information, go to [https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/81cpts/FMF/GTCC/GTCC\\_main.htm](https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/81cpts/FMF/GTCC/GTCC_main.htm) or <http://www.saffm.hq.mil/affsc/>.

## Career development courses

The personnel data system automatically orders weighted airman promotion system career development courses for members who meet the basic eligibility criteria for promotion.

These criteria consider time-in-grade, projected separation and retirement dates, and high year of tenure. Members who become eligible after the ordering process begins request CDCs through unit WAPS monitors.

Members issued WAPS CDCs are required to maintain them until they're superseded or no longer needed. When the material is unusable or unavailable through no fault of the member, the unit commander may request replacement material from the Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning.

To request replacement materials, see your unit WAPS monitor. Requests for replacement to the institute should be made as soon as possible.

Members are responsible for reviewing the WAPS catalog for current study reference material requirements.

For copies of the catalog, see your unit WAPS monitor or go online to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

## Deployment checklist

**Physical condition** — Pursue a regular exercise program of cardiovascular, strength, flexibility and endurance training. If your shots aren't up to date, call immunizations, 377-6543.

**Training requirements** — See your unit deployment manager for these training schedules: chemical warfare, combat arms, and self aid and buddy care. Update your training records.

**Deployment documents** — For current uniform identification cards, visit pass and registration, located in a tent adjacent to the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate. For current dog tags, visit the military personnel flight, old Cody Hall. For current Geneva Convention cards for medical personnel or chaplains, see your unit deployment manager or visit or contact the 81st Mission Support Squadron. Have a copy of your current leave and earnings statement.

**Your bags** — Pack personal/mobility bag, tools and team equipment/cargo.

**Family concerns** — To process wills and powers of attorney, visit or call the legal office, Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. If you and your spouse are both vulnerable to deploy, prepare a dependent care statement, Air Force Form 357. For a family readiness plan, visit the family support center, old Cody Hall.

## E-mailing deployed troops

Stars and Stripes features "Messages of Support" to deployed service members from family and friends free of charge.

Send e-mails of no more than 60 words to [messages@estripes.com](mailto:messages@estripes.com).



## Laugh it up

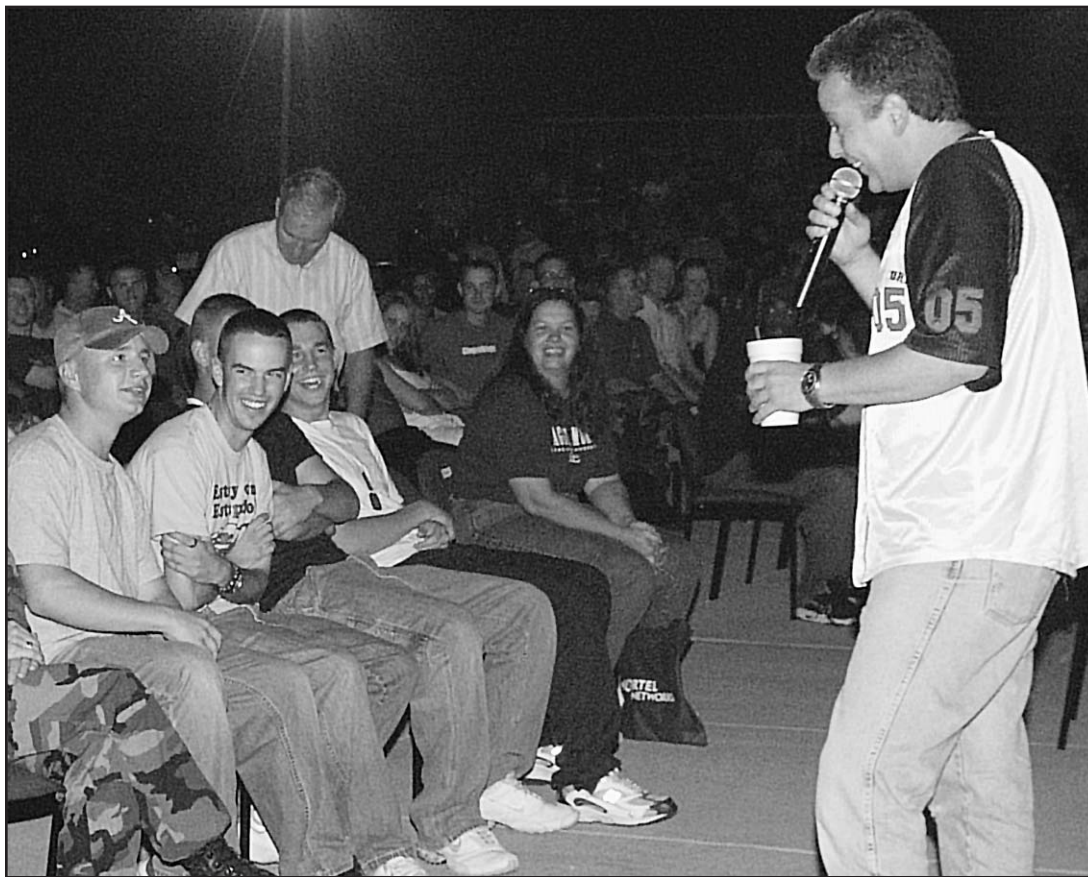


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Keesler members are amused as comedian "Reverend" Bob Levy tells a joke during the Operation Comic Relief at the parade grounds in the Triangle Oct. 20. Levy, along with Craig Gass and Keith Purnell, performed an adult-oriented show for Keesler personnel.

## Halloween trick or treat in base housing

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The base hosts a Halloween trick or treat, 6-8 p.m. Monday.

Bay Ridge, Shadowlawn, Maltby Hall, East and West Falcon and Thrower Park housing areas are approved for trick or treat.

Twenty-five members of the 81st Security Forces Squadron will patrol the areas.

Parents should follow these safety rules for the evening:

**Children** should always be with an adult.

**Visit** only houses with a light on.

**Wear** costumes that will be visible at night; use reflective tape.

**Walk** on the sidewalks and driveways.

**Don't** let children eat anything until after it has been inspected.

**Accept** only wrapped candy.

**Never** let candy get above 72 degrees.

**Chocolate** can be stored in a refrigerator for one year.

**Don't** let children go into a house by themselves. Accept candy outside the doorway.

These are other events, campaigns, etc. taking place:

**Combined Federal Campaign** — normally scheduled for September through November each year, has been cancelled.

**Intramural sports** — Turkey Bowl, a flag football double-elimination tournament in November.

Participation is limited to Keesler personnel only. Deadline to enter is Nov. 10. For more information, call James Grubb, 377-4099.

**Operational Readiness Inspection** — scheduled for April 2006 has been cancelled.

**Youth activities center** — Fall Festival Family Fellowship, 6-8 p.m. Monday hosted by the chapel. Everyone is encouraged to dress up as their favorite Bible hero or heroine. For more information, call 377-2520.

Lights on after-school celebration, and school age program open house, 5 p.m. today.

Super Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for ages 6 and older. No entry fee. Saturday, Halloween party with prizes for best costume.

Family, teen talent contest 2 p.m. Nov. 5. Registration deadline is Nov. 3. For more information, call 377-4116.

## Salute still on; new venue, attire

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The venue is different and the attire is more casual, but the 27th annual Salute to the Military is taking place Nov. 15 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

The evening includes a cocktail reception at 6 p.m., followed by a catered barbecue at 7. Buses are provided from the designated on-base parking to the warehouse where the event is being held.

Attire is duty uniform of the day for military members and business casual for civilians.

Previously, the formal dress uniform and black-tie event has been held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Convention Center which overlooks the Gulf of Mexico. The coliseum sustained major structural damage from Hurricane Katrina's storm surge Aug. 29.

The south side of the building was gutted, including administrative offices, the box office and the dressing rooms. Five feet of water flooded both the arena and the convention center, damaging equipment, tables, chairs and all kitchen facilities.

"The event was originally scheduled for Oct. 17, but Hurricane Katrina took care of that," explained John McFarland, chairman of the event for the Mississippi Coast Chamber of Commerce. "Then the Seabees stepped in and saved the day by offering a warehouse on the Seabee base."

"Of all years, we simply would not think of canceling the Salute this year," said co-chairman Bob Coniglione. "It'll be casual, it'll be different, but it's going to be one of the most exciting and most important salutes ever."

Navy Adm. Michael Mullen, chief of Naval Operations, is the invited speaker.

The admiral joins Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran, Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, chamber chairman Duncan McKenzie and the commanders of each of the Coast's military installation in recognizing the contributions of area military personnel and welcoming home many area troops recently returned from deployment.

Mr. McFarland said military members will receive special recognition for their support during and after Hurricane Katrina.

The event also marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II by recognizing the war's veterans in attendance.

The salute also features the presentation of the chamber's annual Thomas Fredian Community Service Award to an outstanding enlisted member.

Music is provided by the Air Force Band of Mid-America from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Tickets are \$50 for civilians and retired military and \$40 for uniformed military.

Reserved tables of 10 are available for \$500 for civilians and retired military and \$400 for uniformed military.

For more information or for tickets to the event, call the chamber's temporary office, 547-9668, or mail requests to P.O. Box 8267, Biloxi, MS 39535.





Photo by Kemberly Groue

From left, Senior Airmen David Weaver and James Bratko and Airmen 1st Class Aaron Boss and Nathan Micks from McGuire unload Halloween costumes and items earmarked for Keesler's Airmen's Attic, which received significant damage during Hurricane Katrina.

# McGuire Airmen deliver Halloween happiness along with recovery supplies

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

A big yellow truck from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., loaded to the brim with hurricane recovery supplies also held some welcome normalcy for Keesler kids — Halloween costumes and candy.

Four members of McGuire's Airmen's Activity Council made the trip from New Jersey to deliver the supplies, according to Julia Masone-Zimmerman, recreation specialist at Airmen's Firehouse.

Airmen's Firehouse is McGuire's activity center for junior enlisted members and a hub for volunteer programs, fundraisers and community service activities.

Donations were collected at the center and organized, boxed, labeled and loaded by the council members.

"Originally, I asked for simple, but neces-

sary items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, flashlights and batteries and non-perishable foods," Ms. Masone-Zimmerman explained. "The people of McGuire extended this list to include everything from baby food and diapers to shovels and games."

Tucked in among the boxes of food, baby items, hygiene products, cleaning supplies and yard tools were cartons of superhero garb, storybook costumes, animal disguises and even a fairy princess gown complete with wings and wand.

The costumes, collected and organized by Chief Master Sgt. Mary Alden, command chief of McGuire's 514th Air Mobility Wing reservists, are available at the family support center's "Keesler Attic" in the former Chapel One building next to Sablich Center.

Please see **McGuire**, Page 13

## Air Force Aid Society loan process returns to 'business as usual'

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Monday, the Air Force Aid Society returned to "business as usual" in handling Hurricane Katrina assistance requests at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

This ends the previous policy of disbursing interest-free loans for up to \$2,000 with probable conversion to a grant.

When requesting AFAS assistance, Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows are required to complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

Checks are written to the person or company providing the repair or service. Hurricane-related requests are decided on a case-by-case basis, and the customer is asked to provide supporting documentation, such as written estimates for tree removal, home repairs and proof of insurance deductibles.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

Here's a listing of other available assistance.

### American Legion

Current American Legion members who are active-duty members or belong to the National Guard or Reserves impacted by Hurricane Katrina may qualify for cash grants up to \$1,500. Apply by phone, 1-800-433-3318, or online, <http://www.legion.org>.

### American Red Cross

Any permanent party resident living in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and not receiving subsistence-in-kind is entitled to a Hurricane Katrina check voucher. To verify eligibility and determine entitlement amounts, call 1-800-975-7585.

### Area Defense Council

Keesler's office is now in Room 174, Thomson Hall. The office, an independent

office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions.

For appointments, call 377-8029.

### AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

### BAS

A Sept. 27 Department of Defense memo authorizes Airmen assigned to Keesler to receive free meals without a reduction in their basic allowance for subsistence for 60 days to lessen financial hardship due to the hurricane.

### Bus transportation

Coast Transit Authority is offering free transportation on the following fixed routes.

Pascagoula-Gautier route 80 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. For more information, call 875-8070.

Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville and Ocean Springs routes run 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information call 896-8080.

Specialized medical transportation is also available on this route at the same times and days. For more information, call 896-4010.

### Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian

Please see **Aid**, Page 13



# Aid,

from Page 12

employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml> or call Sheila Noel, 377-7973.

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Civilian employees may also donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane. Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be contributed to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

## Diploma replacement

Students who want to replace diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force or professional military education lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

## Extended child care

Military and civilians affected who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

## FEMA

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the disaster areas can apply for federal assistance by registering online with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov>, or by calling 1-800-621-3362, or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24/7.

## Food stamps

For information, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>.

## Government travel card

The government travel card, for official travel expenses while in a travel status, isn't authorized for use at Keesler.

Personnel who lost their card during the storm must

# Hurricane victims get income tax relief

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 postpones deadlines for affected taxpayers to file tax returns, pay taxes and perform other time-sensitive acts until Feb. 28.

Deadline postponement, interest suspension and waiver of penalties apply to any tax return, payment or deposit with an original or extended due date falling on or after Aug. 29.

To take advantage of the act's benefits, taxpayers must file itemized returns, said Dick Brock of the legal office.

There's no change in tax filing status or benefits for hurricane victims due to temporary housing situations. If you filed as head of household in 2004, you can do so for 2005, even if you're living in someone else's home because yours was affected by the storm.

Anyone providing rent-free housing to hurricane victims for at least 60 days can take a deduction of \$500 per person, up to \$2,000.

Under the act, you don't have to pay income tax on a debt cancelled because of the hurricane. To avoid tax on insurance payments, the deadline is extended to five years provided the replacement property is located within the disaster area.

The act also removes the requirement that

an individual be a first-time home purchaser for certain low-interest mortgages and permits loans of up to \$150,000 for repairing homes in the declared disaster area.

Katrina victims who withdraw money from company retirement plans or individual retirement accounts to make hurricane repairs or pay related bills won't be hit with the usual 10 percent early withdrawal penalty. They can also spread the income tax on such withdrawals over three years, instead of having to pay the entire amount in the year of the distribution.

The maximum limit for hardship loans from retirement plans is temporarily increased to \$100,000.

Individuals who make charitable cash contributions to hurricane relief efforts can deduct 100 percent of the amount if made before Jan. 1.

The mileage deduction for Katrina aid workers and volunteers is increased to 34.2 cents per mile. Volunteers don't have to pay income tax if reimbursed for mileage by the charity.

For more information, call the Internal Revenue Service, 1-866-562-5227, or visit the agency's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>.

report the loss and request a new card immediately.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of government travel card accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit. First try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

## Natural disaster form

The Air Force Personnel Readiness Center has a natural disaster registration form at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>, for evacuation and safe haven information.

For more information, call 1-800-435-9941.

## OneSource

Air Force OneSource offers 24/7 support and advice on how to tap into resources available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Air Force Aid Society and American Red Cross. Call 1-800-707-5784 or visit <http://www.airforceone.com>. Use "airforce" as user ID and "ready" as password.

## Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

## Salvation Army

For assistance, visit <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>.

## SBA

The Small Business Administration is the primary

source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations that received hurricane damage.

The SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing.

Interest rates are as low as 2.68 percent for homeowners and renters, and amounts and terms of the loans are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

The SBA recommends not waiting to settle with your insurance company before applying for disaster loan assistance. SBA officials say most homeowners, renters and business owners aren't fully covered for their personal property and home losses and need additional funds. Those who don't complete an SBA application may be disqualified from other types of assistance, including possible grants.

For more information, call 1-800-659-2955 daily from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., email questions to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visit the Web site, <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.

# McGuire,

from Page 12

The other recovery supplies delivered to Keesler Oct. 20 are being used to restock Airmen's Attic at 800/802 Rodenberg Avenue in Bay Ridge housing area.

Senior Master Sgt. Marnice Anthony, who coordinates Airman's Attic for the Top III Association, said the facility took a major hit during Hurricane Katrina. She said the McGuire donations will help many Keesler families who lost homes and belongings in the storm.

"We expect to be ready to reopen Airmen's Attic in mid-November," Sergeant Anthony said. "At that time, the temporary Keesler Attic run by the family support center will wind down its operations."

"I just wish we could do more," said Senior Airmen David Weaver, vice president of McGuire's AAC. "When we drove in, the destruction wasn't that obvious. Since we arrived, people have pointed out that it's been more than seven weeks since the hurricane hit and a lot of cleanup and repairs have already taken place, but there's still a long way to go."

Also making the 1,230-mile trip to Keesler were Airman 1st Class Aaron Boss, council president; Airman 1st Class Nathan Micks and Senior Airman James Bratko.

After hearing about the project, the Police Benevolent Association of Bridgewater, N.J., helped collect items and donated funds to transport the supplies.

Ms. Masone-Zimmerman said Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ball, the 305th Air Mobility Wing's command chief, guided her in conducting the drive and worked side-by-side with the Airmen who loaded the 26-foot truck "from top to bottom, side to side."

"Our Airmen were very excited about doing this," Ms. Masone-Zimmerman said. "I hope a disaster like Hurricane Katrina doesn't happen again, but it was a valuable lesson in reaching out to others for the young people here."



# Hobby, craft shops reopen

# Facilities gradually getting back to normal

By Senior Airman  
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

The wood hobby shop, arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops reopened Monday.

The wood shop's hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Planers and drum sanders aren't available for at this time.

The arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops are open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other open base facilities include:

## 81st Services Division

**Family child care** has five providers accepting children in their homes.

Space is available for five children under age 2, and seven children ages 3 and older.

Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the family child care office, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**Child development center** — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Space is available at the child development center and for the preschool program. For more information, call 377-2211.

**McBride Library** — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. A fax service and copy machine are available for a nominal fee; videos and DVD movies available and free Internet service.

**Inns of Keesler** — open 24 hours.

**Muse Manor mini-mart** — 7 a.m. to midnight daily.

**Vandenberg Community Center** — open for E-4 and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

**Half Time Café** — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Oak Park Gate** is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of

**Highway 90.** Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

**Auto skills center** — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Car wash is open 24/7.

**Youth activities center** — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Before and after school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

**Katrina Kantina** — 5 p.m. to midnight Thursdays-Saturdays for E-5 and above in the main marina building.

**Information, ticket and travel office** — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Bay Breeze Golf Course, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior Lounge and Keesler Community Center are closed.

## AAFES

**Home furnishings store** — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; located at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Drive.

**Military clothing sales** — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; located in the mini-mall on Ploesti.

**Mini-mall** — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

**Seattle's Best Coffee** — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the mini-mall.

**Service station** — attended fueling 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Unattended fueling available 24 hours a day.

Service bays are open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Retail store hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

**Subway** — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Dawg Daze hot dog cart** — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Welch Auditorium** — movies are shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday. **Triangle barber shop** — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Beauty shop** — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

**Triangle laundry and dry cleaners** — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**Triangle alteration shop** — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**At Ease embroidery/unit apparel** — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

**Czee Zone Internet Café** — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette, Class Six/shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

## Banking

**Keesler Federal Credit Union** — open for limited service, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Keesler's branch is operating in an off-line mode, but can handle cash withdrawals or checks up to \$400 per person per day.

New accounts can be opened for base personnel and temporary tenants such as FEMA, MEMA and Red Cross.

**BancorpSouth** — base branch open for limited service, 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday with limited services.

Safe deposit box access available, as well as teller window services, but no customer service desk or account opening capabilities are available at this time.

## First aid station

The first aid station has moved from the clinical research laboratory to the for-

mer emergency room in the medical center.

It's open 24 hours, seven days a week, but doesn't have emergency services.

For emergencies, call 911 or go to the nearest off-base hospital.

Basic radiology support, including ultrasounds, and anatomical pathology are also located in the former ER.

## Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable.

For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

## Immunization clinic

The immunization clinic is now located in Pod H at the dental clinic. All vaccines for physical health assessments and well-baby visits are available, except for meningitis. Flu vaccines are expected in mid-November. For more information, call 377-6543.

Please see **Facilities**, Page 15



# Facilities,

from Page 14

## Moves

**Family support center** — now located on the first floor of old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, there's an annex with supplies for all ranks and base civilians including clothes, food, baby items and cleaning supplies. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

**Finance** — now located on the second floor of the Vosler Center. Hours of operations are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

**Legal office** — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility.

A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon.

For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

**Personal finances** — The personal financial management program is now located in old Cody Hall, Room 119. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

**Personnel offices** — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

**Retirees, annuitants** — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

**TMO** — The traffic management office for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

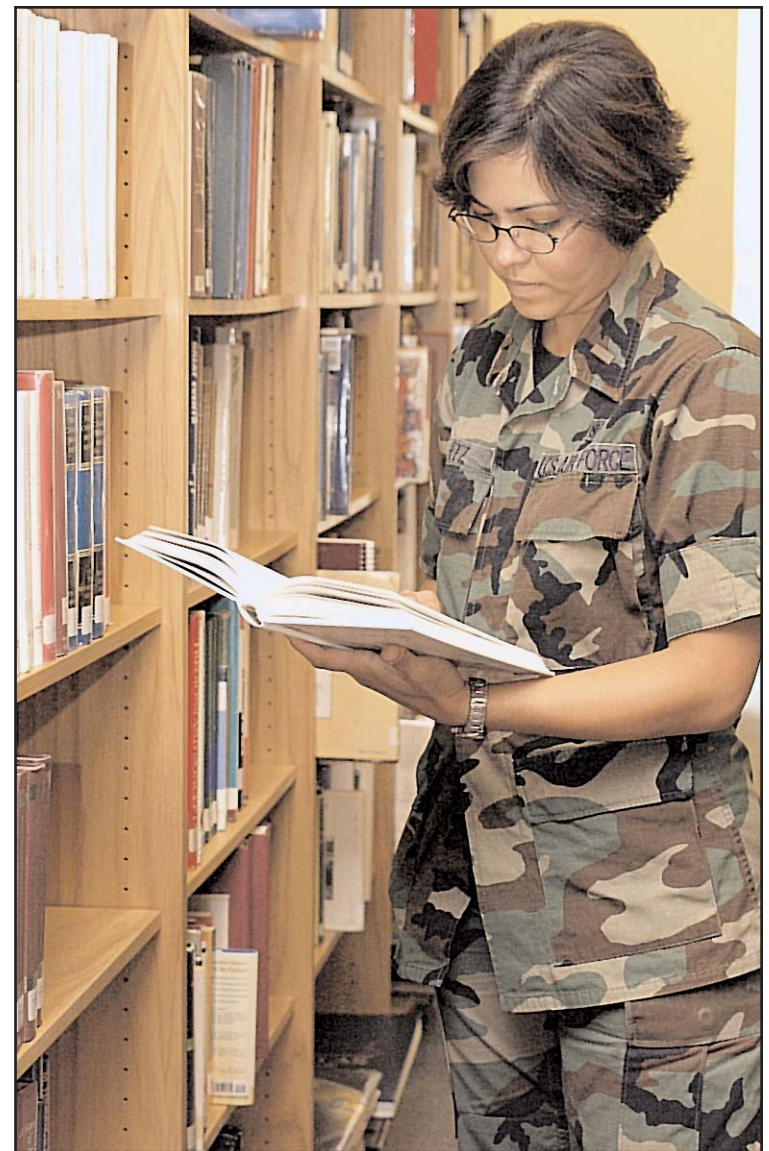


Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Second Lt. Katherine Hitz, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, looks for a book to read at McBride Library. The library is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. A fax service and copy machine are available for a nominal fee. Videos and DVD movies and free Internet service are also available.**

Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813 or 7811; outbound counselors, 377-7815, 7817 or 7818; outbound documentation, 377-2326 or 2446; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969 or 9222; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

## Pets

**Veterinary clinic** — 8 a.m.

to noon, Mondays-Fridays, for over-the-counter sales.

For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

## Self-help store

The store's open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for housing residents. It's also open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, call 377-5397.



# Bioenvironmental engineers weather storm, conduct hazardous materials inspections

By Tech. Sgt. Francis Kelly

81st Training Wing Public affairs

Keesler Medical Center was home for essential 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight personnel and 1,500 other Airmen and civilians during Hurricane Katrina's visit.

With four feet of storm water flooding the hospital's basement level and heavy winds damaging outer panes of some windows on upper floors, unit members found sanctuary on the medical center's first floor, where they remained huddled for five days, surrounded by boxes of medical records rescued from the center's basement.

"It was an incredibly trying time, the worst of the worst," said Tech. Sgt. Randy Sherlin, BEE flight chief. "Nothing on our checklist would have covered the challenges presented by Katrina.

"My thoughts were focused upon my wife, who was deployed to Qatar; my daughter, who I sent to live with my in-laws; and my troops and their families, some of whom were sheltered with me and others who had evacuated," explained the 13-year Air Force veteran. He added that BEE personnel worked at least 12 and as many as 16 hours per day while "hospitalized."

"We were without power and air conditioning," offered Staff Sgt. Nina Summers, BEE environmental compliance noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "We slept anywhere we could — whether it was on the hallway floors or on an examination table.

"We learned to live with inconvenience," continued the aspiring nursing student, whose parents and siblings also confronted Katrina's wrath in her hometown of Slidell, La.

For 2nd Lt. Jennifer Lepper, occupational health officer-in-charge and acting flight commander, the experience represented the beginning of "a crash course in being a flight commander."

During their hospital stay, a major concern of BEE personnel was the quality of the hospital's drinking water, which became a critical factor as the on-hand supply of bottled water dwindled.

"Once (the 81st Civil Engineering Squadron) informed us that the base water system was intact and that the hospital water supply was potable, we conducted additional chlorine residual readings on each floor prior to assuring those in the shelter that the water was safe to drink," stated the lieutenant, who holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from the Air Force Academy.

As soon as it was safe for mission-essential military personnel to exit the hospital, BEE personnel continued to assist the base with its hurricane recovery effort. They conducted hazardous material inspections to ensure the integrity of gas tanks and the stability of fertilizer supplies, as well as performed mold inspections of all shelters and dormitories. They also aided in the asbestos abatement effort by pulling samples for laboratory testing by outside specialists.

When the "all clear" signal was given and people began to depart the shelter, BEE personnel spear-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Maj. Timothy Stanek, an augmentee from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and Staff Sgt. Nina Summers, 81st AMDS, analyze an unknown liquid. They're assigned to the bioenviron-**

**mental engineering flight and have been conducting industrial and environmental inspections on base water supplies, asbestos, mold and lead.**

---

After Katrina, the BEEs conducted hazardous material inspections to ensure the integrity of gas tanks and the stability of fertilizer supplies, as well as performed mold inspections of all shelters and dormitories. They also aided in the asbestos abatement effort by pulling samples for laboratory testing by outside specialists.

---

headed an effort to educate base personnel in how to clean up their own homes, how to determine whether their homes were habitable and what course of action to follow if they weren't.

As the recovery effort progresses, the BEE staff finds itself doing more with less. With some of its members still waiting to return to Keesler and personnel presently onboard needing to address their own personal post-hurricane concerns, the flight's mission continues.

Along with resuming pre-hurricane industrial and environmental inspections, the monthly sampling of all base water supplies and an ongoing team-training effort, BEE has placed greater emphasis upon environmental concerns. Asbestos, mold and lead inspections

are a high priority, and the flight is responding to all HAZMAT issues as soon as they're reported.

BEE personnel are also continuing their education effort for Keesler Airmen and their families, assisting with tips on mold removal and ensuring them that the base's water is absolutely safe to drink.

Office space has also been reduced.

"Our building has opened its doors to flight medicine, public health, optometry, aerospace medicine and the health and wellness center, all of which were displaced by Katrina," stated the lieutenant.

As the Keesler community continues with the recovery process, BEE personnel are there every step of the way, ensuring base workplaces and living facilities remain environmentally and occupationally safe.





Property owner Charles Livingston, left, gets help cleaning up around his destroyed Langley Point home from Lt. Col. Adolf Edward and Navy Cmdr. Becky Roberts, Air War College students from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Their class of 18 officers came to the Gulf Coast Saturday to assist with efforts in St. Martin.



Photos by Kemberly Groue  
Tech. Sgt. Latricia Palmer, 81st Communications Squadron, pulls insulation from a home in the devastated east Biloxi area. A team of 55 permanent party Keesler Airmen gutted five homes on Keller Street Friday. Each down Friday, volunteers go out into the surrounding community to help residents clean up damage from Hurricane Katrina. To volunteer, call 377-8342.

## Humanitarian relief efforts

### Keesler, Maxwell help clean up hard-hit areas during down time



Chaplain (Maj.) Bob Wido, on temporary duty from Lackland AFB, Texas, tears down walls around a window of a home on Keller Street.



Master Sgt. Chris Mossor, left, 81st Training Group, and Airman 1st Class Rebecca Sherry, 332nd Training Squadron, rip linoleum from the floor of a home that was flooded by Hurricane Katrina.



Staff Sgt. Cheri Trosclair, 81st Training Support Squadron, piles plywood and insulation into a garbage can after pulling it from a damaged home.



# Clinical lab, radiology continue limited operations

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Two of the 81st Medical Group's major departments continue to provide patient support in a limited manner in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The clinical laboratory and radiology flights, both under the 81st Medical Support Squadron, are "doing business" in the medical group's clinical research laboratory, and the former emergency room at the medical center, as well as the medical clinic area of the dental clinic.

According to Capt. Anthony Caruso, chief of the core laboratory, "Within days of Katrina, the lab staff quickly built laboratory services that mirrored our original lab, including complete blood counts, urinalysis, chemistry tests, pregnancy tests, immunology tests and microbiology procedures.

"The only difference is we are operating at a much reduced level of complexity," the captain continued. "The equipment we're using is the same as a deployed hospital package. The more complex tests are sent to Wilford Hall Medical Center (at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas) or a commercial laboratory."

Captain Caruso said the lab hopes to return to its Keesler Medical Center location sometime next year.

Meanwhile, the radiology flight operates with six active-duty radiologists and staff using a portable X-ray unit plus ultrasound capability to support the first-aid station in the former emergency room area of the medical center.

The flight opened a second radiology area in the medical clinic area of the dental clinic building, according to Col. (Dr.) Russell Gelormini, radiology flight commander.

"We're also discussing offering (magnetic resonance imaging) and mammography

## Tricare at Keesler

### Assistance locations

**Carolyn James**, beneficiary counseling assistance coordinator, and **Ann Larkin**, Humana beneficiary services representative, Room 69J, dental clinic; 377-6580, cell phone number 1-228-596-5931.

**Pat Poling**, medical and dental registration and eligibility, front desk, dental clinic.

**Linda Davis**, technical training student Tricare issues, Triangle clinic, 377-8428.

### Civilian PCMs

Beneficiaries with civilian primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River, south Mississippi and southwestern Alabama don't need referrals until Monday.

### Military PCMs

Beneficiaries with military primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River and south Mississippi don't need referrals until Monday. This includes care at other locations where individuals may be staying temporarily. Blanket referrals may be eliminated as conditions improve, so beneficiaries are encouraged to re-establish contact with their PCMs as soon as possible.

To minimize potential problems and to reassure the providers they may see during this interim period, beneficiaries are advised to encourage their provider to contact Humana at 1-800-444-5445. Beneficiaries may also use the online resources at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or <http://humana-military.com> to find providers in other locations.

### Pharmacy

The Keesler pharmacy is working with the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, pharmacy and the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center to provide refill prescription services.

**Patients in the immediate area** call the Keesler pharmacy's automated prescription refill system, 377-6360.

**Other Mississippi patients**, call 1-800-443-6564.

**From Alabama, Florida and Louisiana**, call 1-800-422-9291.

Refills are sent from Lackland to the Keesler pharmacy at the VA for pickup at Building 5. Enter the VA grounds on Veterans Avenue north of Pass Road, Biloxi. Continue through the first three-way stop. After some slight curves, you'll see Building 5 on your right.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Allow four days from activation to pickup.

Patients must present their current, valid military identification. Those picking up prescriptions for someone else must provide written authorization.

### For more information

**Keesler Tricare questions** — 377-3150.

**Humana Tricare questions** — 1-800-444-5445.

services by procuring mobile trailers," the colonel pointed out.

"We anticipate being back in our area on the first floor of the medical center in January,

which will allow us to add (computerized tomography) capability. The entire department is striving to gear back up as quickly as realistically possible."



# The 'Big 5-0' evolves into Katrina relief mission

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Roger Milford had big plans leading up to his 50th birthday. He and his wife, Cindy, and some close friends planned to take a five-day Caribbean cruise a couple weeks in advance of the big day.

Hurricane Katrina put a screeching halt to the trip.

When the Milfords, both employed in the 81st Services Division, returned to work, Roger and other members of the human resources staff had the disheartening task of trying to locate all of the Services employees.

Mr. Milford volunteered to go to Point Cadet, one of Biloxi's hardest hit areas, to knock on what doors were left and ask people if they had any information on some of the missing employees.

The mangled devastation of what the locals refer to as The Point was shocking to Mr. Milford and his friend, Jim O'Neal, a D'Iberville High School math teacher, who knew the area well and volunteered to help with the search.

"The people of The Point were trying to salvage what was left of their lives," recalled Mr. Milford, a retired technical sergeant who's worked in Services for five years. "The heat of that southern September sun and the stench from death and decay was nauseating. We had taken along some provisions like cold water, so we shared what we had with them."

With the cruise cancelled and the "Big 5-0" looming, Mrs. Milford asked her husband how he'd like to celebrate the special occasion.

"Roger said he wanted to ice down some cold drinks and go back to The Point and share his birthday with all the people of the community and maybe bring a smile and a short respite to those so devastated," Mrs. Milford stated.

So armed with seven cases of assorted cold drinks and a bunch of candy, the Milfords joined Jim O'Neal and his wife, Vicki, to celebrate his birthday, Sept. 12.

One of the people the group encountered was Lionel Antoine, whose wife, Betty, is a Services employee. He rode out the hurricane at home and spent four harrowing hours on his roof as the storm surge engulfed The Point. The house was still standing, but flood waters ruined everything inside.

"Being a big man, Lionel had a hard time finding clothing that fit," Mrs. Milford pointed out. "Roger, who's a similar size, went home and went through his closet and brought Lionel clothing, shoes, belts, and of

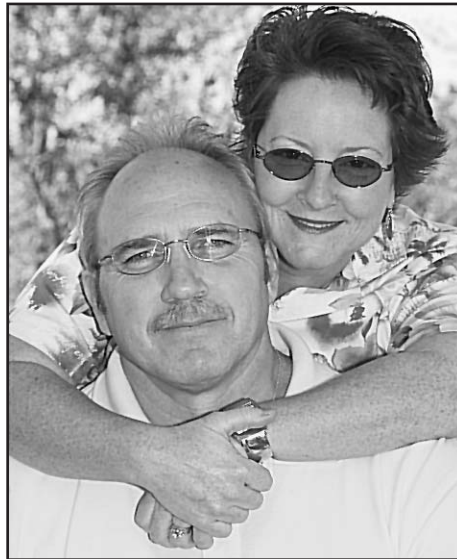


Photo by Kemberly Groue

**Mr. Milford is the Services training manager, and Mrs. Milford is the marketing division's graphic artist.**

course, something cold to drink. Jim even gave him a couple of cigars."

Another couple they met had a three-story home one block north of the beach built in 1844 that had withstood Hurricanes Betsy and Camille, two other monster storms. They rode out Katrina at home and had climbed to the third floor when the entire house started floating north.

"By some miracle they survived and even managed to save their three dogs," Mr. Milford said. "The house is completely gone — just a vacant lot now."

The next person they met lived directly behind where that house used to stand. He and his extended family lost 10 homes in the storm.

"He was salvaging what he could, cleaning up his lot," Mr. Milford remembered. "He had an American flag and the state flag hanging in his walkway. Through a window, he showed us the water line clear up to the ceiling. Next door, a woman and her three children climbed into the attic to escape the rising water. Thankfully, they survived, too."

Since the storm, the Milfords and the O'Neals had been looking for Geno Noonan and Diane Peppenelli, friends who lived on The Point. Mr. Noonan is an instructor in the 332nd Training Squadron and a reservist with the 403rd Wing.

Rubble obscured the streets and many street signs were missing. By sheer luck, the birthday partiers found their long-lost friends. Their home flooded and their sailboat had pinned their car against the house, but they were safe — even their cats survived.

Another person the Milfords and O'Neals were worried about was Rudy,



Photo by Cindy Milford

**A resident showed Mr. Milford a "before" picture as they stood in front of his home, a casualty of the hurricane.**

who lived in a travel trailer at a boatyard where he was the night watchman. He rode up on a bicycle and cried when he told them he had lost everything.

"He carried a tent someone had given him on the handlebars of his bike to put up so he'd have shelter when he slept," Mr. Milford said. "He had plenty of food and water, but no ice, so we gave him a bag."

Then they spotted a woman on a bicycle desperately trying to carry a huge box, so they stopped to help. A Red Cross truck was distributing cots and blankets and she was trying to take them to her home a few blocks away. Before they left, they asked for a cot and blanket for Rudy, who was thrilled with the gifts of comfort.

They passed a home where family members were cooking on a grill in the front yard and offered some cold drinks to go with dinner.

"The family was so happy to have something beside water to drink that the lady sang 'Happy Birthday' to Roger,"

Mrs. Milford remarked. "We finally found some kids, and it didn't take long to get their attention with the candy and soft drinks. We wound up the day with more homes, more kids, more candy, more drinks and lots of smiles."

"One thing I noticed was that everyone asked where we were from," Mrs. Milford added. "They were surprised when we said we were from Biloxi. Most of the disaster workers and volunteers were from other states. We just felt fortunate that we didn't experience that level of destruction at our home."

"It was definitely a birthday to remember," Mr. Milford admitted. "All of our Services employees were accounted for and survived the storm, although many lost everything they owned. We'll rebuild bigger and better, thanks to God, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and all the relief workers and volunteers from across America for their continued help and support."



Senior Airman Lizeth Abreu demonstrates proper wear of headphones while working out in PT gear. Headphones are authorized during personal PT time and other off-duty activities, but not while in formation or during organized unit PT sessions.

Photo by Kemberly Groue



## Headphones OK during workouts

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

There are many reasons people opt to use headphones while working out. Some use them to pace themselves while running and doing reps; for others, getting lost in the music helps them work out longer by losing track of time.

Whatever the reason, headphones must be worn properly while working out in the new Air Force physical training uniform.

According to Air Force officials, Airmen dressed in the PT uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities.

However, headphones can't be worn in formation, during organized unit physical training sessions or while performing official duties.

Commanders may further deny headphone wear if conditions are determined to be unsafe. They may also disallow headphone use because of operational requirements, officials said.

The Air Force hasn't established a mandatory wear date for the new PT uniform, and units shouldn't mandate the wear or purchase of this uniform by their members, said command officials. When 97th Air Force Uniform Board convenes Friday, the PT uniform will be discussed and may result in modification of some aspects of the uniform.

When a mandatory wear date is established, units will be notified.

In the interim, members shouldn't be forced to purchase the existing PT uniform, even if they have received the increased clothing allowance.

Other guidelines to proper wear of the PT gear include:

**Uniform** — Any combination of items may be worn together, but items can't be worn with any civilian clothing.

**T-shirt** — must be worn tucked into shorts or pants.

**Jacket** — must be at least half-zipped, and hood must be stored and zipped when not worn.

**Pants** — must be zipped at the legs.

**Spandex shorts and leggings** — navy blue or black; may be worn under PT shorts. Full-length leggings may be worn during cold weather.

**White socks** — must be worn. Ankle or calf length socks with small, conservative logos are acceptable.

**Shoes** — must be a conservative color.

**Hats** — not required when performing PT activities, but if optional organizational hats are worn, commanders must standardize.

**Saluting** — not required when performing PT activities, but is required regardless of uniform type when not performing PT activities when meeting individuals with appropriate rank.

**Hair** — must be neat and can't hang loose below the collar; long hair must be tied back.

**Reflective belt** — requirement is at the discretion of the squadron commander.

**Body art** — normal standards apply.

**Jewelry** — wear follows normal uniform rules; keep safety in mind.

**Deployed locations** — wear policy is at the discretion of the theater commander.



# USO Tour Lonestar coming to Keesler Nov. 4

More information to follow.

## Operation Slugfest

7 p.m. Nov. 10

(hangar to be announced)

3 weight classes ~ \$15 admission

Tickets on sale at

Information, Tickets and Travel  
in Vandenberg Community Center.

Food and beverages available.

Amateur boxing sanctioned by  
Mississippi State Athletic Commission.  
Sponsored by Bomber Promotions.

No federal endorsement  
of sponsor intended.

## Turkey Bowl

Double-elimination  
flag football tournament

Nov. 15-17 and 21-22

Limit 10 teams

Keesler personnel only —  
doesn't have to be a squadron team.

Entry deadline Nov. 10

For more information,  
call Jim Grubb, 377-4409  
james.grubb2@keesler.af.mil

November 2005



# H A P P E N I N G S



## Services gradually returning to normal

### Auto care

**Auto skills shop** — stalls, tools and mechanic support available. For more information, call 377-3832.

**24-hour coin-operated car wash** — features foamy brush wash, high-pressure rinse, wax system, towelettes, Armorall, and vacuum station.

### Child development center

**Openings** — for child care; morning and afternoon spaces also available for preschool program for ages 3-5. For more information, call 377-2211.

### Family child care

**Fall into fun play day** — 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Fun, frolic and food for parents and children 5 years and younger at the family child care building in Thrower Park. For more information, call 377-3189.

**Extended duty and mildly-ill child care** — providers operational.

### Blake Fitness Center

**Available** — exercise equipment, weight room, basketball court, racquet ball courts, shower facilities and sauna.

**Great American Smokeout 5-kilometer run** — 7 a.m. Nov. 17; registration 6:15. Grab bag awards and giveaways. Gatorade® and water available. For more information, call 377-4385.

### Gaudé Lanes

**Free bowling and amusement games** — for Keesler personnel and relief workers. No food or beverages served; bring your own. The center isn't open to the general public yet. For more information, call 377-2817.

### Half Time Café

**Open for lunch and dinner** — pizza, wings, burgers, Philly steak sandwiches and more. Dine in or take out, 377-2424.

### Information, tickets and travel

**Relocated** — to Vandenberg Community Center. Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesdays-work Fridays with limited service. For more information, call 377-3818.

### Katrina Kantina

Snacks, beverages and music for E-5s and above in the main marina building overlooking Biloxi's Back Bay. Open 5 p.m. to midnight Thursdays-Saturdays.

### McBride Library

**Children's Book Week** — Nov. 14-20.

**Story time** — 10 a.m. Nov. 16, ages 2-5.

**Tours/orientations** — contact Tonie Day, 377-2827.

### Muse Manor Mini-Mart

Snacks, cold drinks, health and hygiene products. Open 7 a.m. to midnight. For more information, call 377-2752.

### Outdoor recreation

**New location** — in enclosed pavilion in marina park. Camping, fishing and recreational equipment rental; recreational vehicle and dry storage available. For more information, call 377-3160.

**Fam Camp** — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and displaced non-mission-essential active-duty members. For more information, call 594-0543.

### Youth activities center

**Annual membership** — \$25, ages 6 and older; discounted prices for programs, classes and sports.

**Teen zone** — 6:30-10 p.m. Fridays, ages 13-17. \$4 members, \$5 nonmembers; snack bar available.

**Free Halloween party** — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday; wear your costume, design Halloween masks and make your own Halloween snack. Prizes for best costume and snack.

**Recreation time** — 2-5 p.m. Saturdays, ages 6-12; 6-10 p.m., ages 13-18. \$4 members, \$5 nonmembers.

**Wacky Wednesdays** — 6 p.m. Wednesdays, game room tournaments.

**Self-directed activities for ages 9-18** — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-

18. Homework, Smart Girls, Passport to Manhood, computer lab, 4-H Clubs, game day tournaments. Free for members, 50 cents daily guest fee.

**Torch Club** — 5 p.m. Thursdays, ages 9-12.

**Family and teen talent contest** — Nov. 5. Family acts, youth and teen instrumental, specialty, solo and group acts, ages 3 and older. Applications available at youth activities center. Register by Nov. 3.

**Free home alone safety workshop** — 6 p.m. Nov. 10, ages 10 and older. Safety tips and information; child must be accompanied by a parent.

**Turkey challenge** — Nov 19. Family challenge 3 p.m. ages 6-12, plus one adult, teen challenge, 7 p.m. ages 13 and older.

**Boys and Girls Club fine arts exhibit** — entries accepted now for black-and-white drawing, ages 9 and younger, multicolored drawing, ages 10-12; watercolor and oil/acrylic, ages 13-15; and print making, mixed media, collage, sculpture, seasonal/holiday and fish/marine life, ages 16-18. Exhibit in December.

**Armed Services YMCA essay and art contest** — registration begins Tuesday. For more information, visit <http://www.asymca.org>.

**FitFactor Fitness club** — online fitness program, ages 9-18. Get fit and win prizes. Register at the center.

**Before and after school program** — 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m., kindergarten through sixth grade.

### Veterinary services

**Limited hours and services** — 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for over-the-counter sales. For more information, call 377-6883.

### Vandenberg Community Center

For E-4s and below; shoot some pool, play amusement games or try Cyber-sports. Weekends feature music and dancing, 6 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 377-3308.

# KEESLER NOTES

## Retirement briefings

Civilian retirement briefings are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and Nov. 3 in the Wolfe Hall auditorium.

The Wednesday session is for Civil Service Retirement System and CSRS-Offset employees. The Nov. 3 session is for employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System.

Reservations are required as seating is limited to 113 people. Employees who don't make reservations are considered on a space-available basis the day of the seminar.

Employees who haven't attended these briefings in the past have first priority.

To make reservations or for more information, e-mail or call Dorisa Jones, [dorisa.jones@keesler.af.mil](mailto:dorisa.jones@keesler.af.mil), 377-3142.

@keesler.af.mil, 377-3142.

## Stray animals

The 81st Security Forces Squadron impounds stray animals and responds to complaints of strays.

Once an animal is captured, it's government property until released to authorities. Owners are required to retrieve their animals from authorities.

If the owner is located, 81st SFS officials prepare and send a stray animal form letter to the owner's commander.

For more information, call Army Staff Sgt. John Venturelli, veterinary treatment facility, 377-3963.

## Spouses club

For information on officers spouses club activities, call Michelle Harper, 327-6848.



# SPORTS AND RECREATION

## Bowling back at Keesler; Gaudé Lanes now operational

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The Gaudé Lanes bowling center is operational again after being damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

### Storm damage

Melodi DeBorger, assistant manager, said the center sustained structural damage to the roof during the hurricane, which also caused damage to the inside.

"We lost most of the roof, as well as ceiling tiles, to the facility," she said. "The damaged roof allowed rain to come in and it has affected the ball returns machine. Some of our other machines have also rusted. We've had the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron out here a bunch of times to look at our facility.

"The roof has since been fixed, which was our biggest concern. It took about two weeks."

The bowling center is open from 5-10 p.m. weekdays and 3-10 p.m. weekends only for active-duty and relief workers on base. That policy may change in the near future.

"We are looking into inviting retirees and dependents, but with only 12 of the 24 lanes currently available, it is not possible at this time," Mrs. DeBorger said. "We have a mechanic working on the damaged lanes and assessing the problem. We would like to have the rest of the lanes operating as soon as possible so we can allow more people to enjoy."

### 11th frame missing

The hurricane also caused damage to the 11th Frame snack bar in the bowling alley, which in the past served hamburgers, chicken sandwiches and french fries, she said.

"We can't cook right now, so we are allowing people to bring in their own food and beverages," she said. "Unfortunately, we don't know how long it will take to fix the problem."

Another casualty of the storm was the Hurricane Alley.

"In the past, we had glow in the dark bowling at night," she said. "Due to the hurricane damaging our light system, we've also lost the ability to do that."

### Lost machine

Mrs. DeBorger said the biggest loss during the storm was the drilling machine.

"We had a machine here that could drill holes in bowling balls," she said. "That machine alone cost thousands of dollars. We have no idea when we will be able to replace that."

Not all of the bowling alley sustained damage.

"All of our video game machines are operational," Mrs. DeBorger said. "And they are fixed so that they are free right now to all customers. All of our video monitors are operational, and the bowling balls we had before the storm are okay."

### Staffing changes

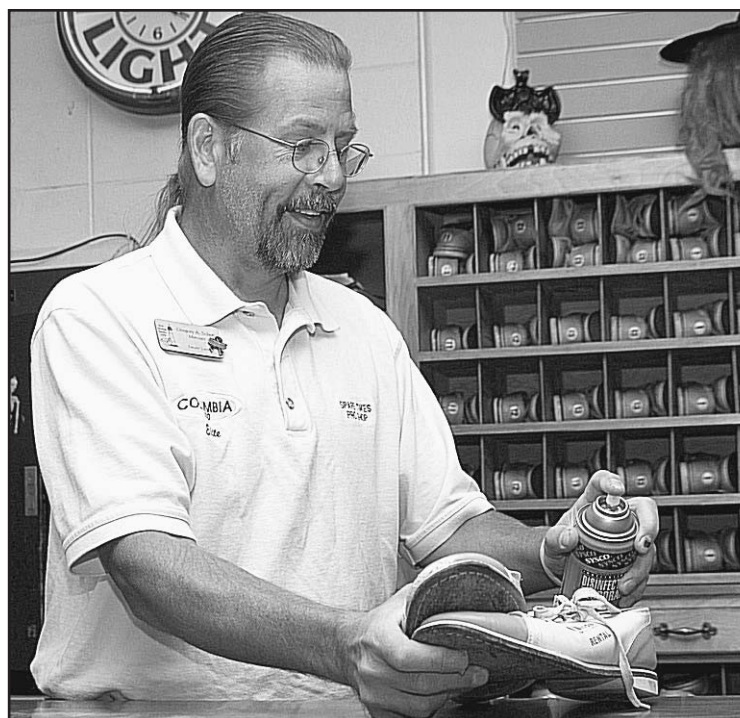
The Gaudé Lanes staff has seen a reduction since the storm, she said.

"On Aug. 28, we had 17 people working here," Mrs. DeBorger said. "The 17 members included the folks that cooked in the kitchen. A couple of those folks lost their homes in the storm and decided to leave. Everyone else who is still here is working at the Half Time Café or in base lodging."

### Future plans

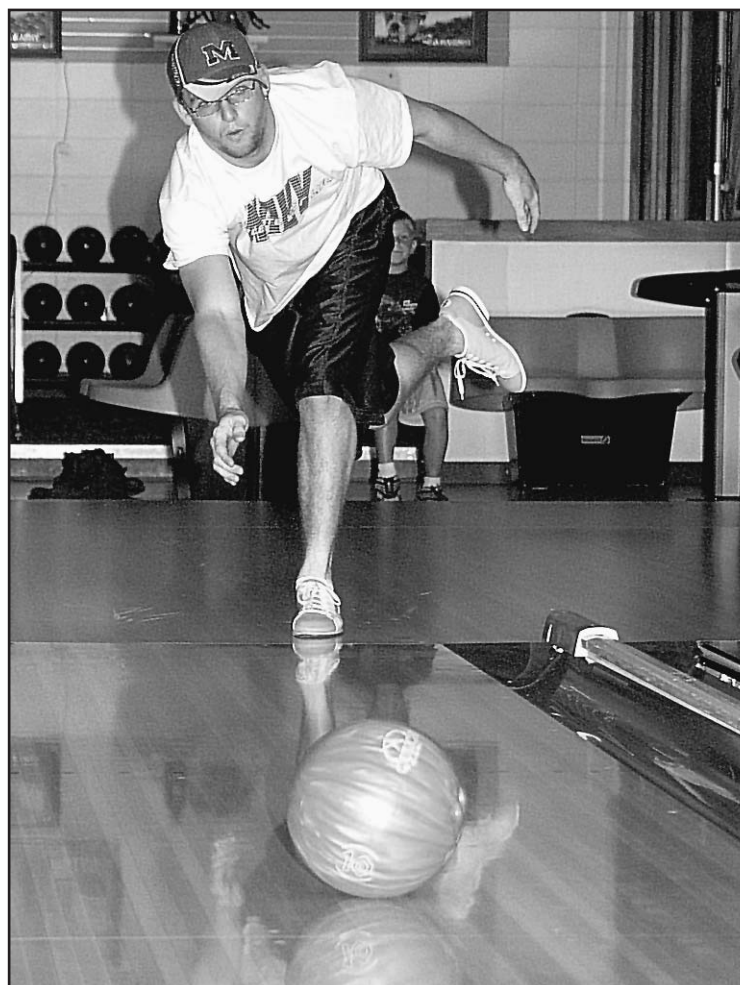
There are plans to resume normal activities at the bowling alley.

"We are looking into bringing back the intramural leagues," she said. "However, the earliest we could do that would be January. At some point, we also would like to resume glow in the dark bowling and other family activities."



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Greg Schon, Gaudé Lanes manager, sprays disinfectant into a bowling shoe Monday.



Scott Cauley, contract worker for an emergency response team doing demolition work, bowls on one of the 12 open lanes Oct. 19.

## SPORTS NOTES

### Fitness centers

**Blake Fitness Center** — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Friday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

**Dragon Fitness Center** — opens Monday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed down Fridays, weekends and holidays. The basketball court area is not available.

**Triangle fitness centers** — closed until further notice.

**Twenty-fifth Lackland Bodybuilding Classic Figure and Fitness Championships** — Nov. 5, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Anyone who wishes to participate or attend the event can stop by the fitness center or call 377-4385.

### Intramurals

**Turkey Bowl** — a flag football double-elimination tournament is November. The first 10 teams to register will play. Seven players on the field. Max of 15 players per team. Teams are not limited to squadrons. Participation is limited to Keesler personnel only. Awards for the first and second place teams. For more information, call James Grubb, 377-4099, or e-mail james.grubb2@keesler.af.mil.

All intramural sports are cancelled until further notice.

### Outdoor recreation

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-3160

Outdoor recreation is now located in Building 6734, the enclosed pavilion in marina park.

**Katrina Kantina**, — a lounge for E-5 and above, is in the main marina building. For more information, call 377-3160.

### Campsites

**Fam camp** — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.



# DIGEST

## HONORS

### Student honor roll

#### 332nd Training Squadron

**Electronic principles** — Airmen Basic Aaron Andrus, Joseph Bliss, Matthew Cannon, Joseph Cardoza, James Gardner, Keith Goulet, Timothy MacFarlane, Jack Martin, Wayland Nash, Alan Peterson and Jay Schneider; Airmen Benjamin Halaszynski, Cardarius Logan, Alex Cousins, Dylan Edson, David Johnson, James Little, Jason Pollack and Joseph Skopic; Airmen 1st Class Alexander Bower, Patrick Crawford, Joel Edward, Ansil Howard, Derrick Koziol and Jose Navarro; Staff Sgts. Dante Adams and Joshua Birch.

#### 334th TRS

**Air traffic control operations training flight** — Airmen Basic Samuel Ackland, Nathan Baker, Amanda Baty, Ervin Beanum, Trevor Breen, Jacob Britton, Bethany Colson, Jimmy Cooper, Jeremy Elhers, Ross Facer, Elcke Fromm, Jerimy Gilmore, William Gray, Richard Hawkins, David Holliday, Jonathan Huffine, Lauren Kirsch, David Lacy, Stephanie Lamberth and Kirk Riley; Airmen Alan Cardy, Todd Fedele and Ambre Helland; Airmen 1st Class Justin Carbone, Curtis McDaniels and Daniel Morton.

#### 335th TRS

**Weather training flight** — Airmen Basic Jessica Isom, Robbie Nicpon and Christopher Ramos; Navy Airmen Recruit Billy Herron, Yolanda Hosea, Jewelryana Rose, Sylvia Shoemaker, Keely Soroka and Nicole Tystuck; Marine Pvt. Kurt Wensmann; Airmen Lindsey Ryiz and Joesph Solis; Navy Airmen Apprentice Celena Goff, Travis Muth and Melissa Springer; Airmen 1st Class Justin Kuiper, Mellisa Perry and Thomas Spencer; Navy Airmen Sean Arnold, Vanessa Barriga, Kristy Pegram, Nicholas Pendleton, Maria Richardson, Barbara Swatek, Benjamin Wells, Gillian Whiteford, Miaya Whitehead and Maurice Winpigler.

## CLASSES

### Airman Leadership School

Classes haven't resumed yet.

### First Term Airmen Center

Classes scheduled to resume in January.

### Keesler NCO Academy

Next class Nov. 7-Dec. 16 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

## PROMOTIONS

### 2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

**Tuesday through Oct. 27** — Air National Guard colonel, second session.

**Nov. 14-18** — colonel, lieutenant colonel and major MC, DC.

**Dec. 5-16** — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

## TRANSITIONS

### Employment assistance

**National Reconnaissance Office** — advanced education opportunities through fiscal 2006 Air Force Institute of Technology program. Positions meet the NRO's advanced academic degree needs starting in fall 2006; extremely competitive process. The NRO directly supports the undersecretary of the Air Force (space) and is a 100-percent selectively manned unit. After degree is earned, candidates complete a four-year follow-on assignment in NRO space acquisition or operations. Most assignments in Washington, D.C., area. Applicants must meet AFIT eligibility requirements for academic average and Graduate Record Exam scores. Most personnel selected are non-rated captains and lieutenants. For application requirements, call 1st Lt. Hanna Chang, 377-7018.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### Roman Catholic

#### Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel .....10 a.m.

#### Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

#### Tagalog worship

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, rosary; 5:45 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help novena; 6 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 2090 Pass Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-3887.

### Protestant

#### Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service .....11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

### Islamic

**Building 2003** — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

### Latter-Day Saints

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** — student group service, 4:30 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center. Institute of Religion, 7 p.m. Wednesdays; for more information or transportation, call cell 661-747-4738.

## DINING HALL MENUS

### Today

**Lunch** — herbed baked chicken, cornbread, stuffed cabbage rolls, fried catfish, blackeyed peas with rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

**Dinner** — roast pork loin, cornbread, jaegerschnitzel, veal, glazed cornish hen, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

### Friday

**Lunch** — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, garlic toast, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, garlic toast, steamed rice, gravy, corn on the cob, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

**Dinner** — lasagna, spaghetti and meat sauce, Italian sweet sausage, garlic toast, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli polonaise, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, pasta salad, three-bean salad, cornbread, clam chowder, vegetable soup, chicken chili, corn O'Brien, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

### Saturday

**Lunch** — fish almondine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

**Dinner** — crispy baked chicken, cajun meatloaf, ribeye steak, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, French peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

### Sunday

**Lunch** — tuna and noodles, sauerbraten, chicken breast parmesan, au gratin potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, peas, fried cabbage, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, spinach lasagna, orange rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, lima beans, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

### Monday

**Lunch** — baked chicken, garlic toast, Swiss steak, baked Italian sausage, peppers and onions, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli polonaise, carrots, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

**Dinner** — turkey, cornbread, ham, raisin sauce, fish and fries, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, garden cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

### Tuesday

**Lunch** — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

**Dinner** — onion lemon baked fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and spaghetti, garlic toast, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, spinach salad, waldorf salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup and steak and cheese subs.

### Wednesday

**Lunch** — Mexican baked chicken, beef fajitas, Mexican pork chops, Mexican rice, refried beans, Mexican corn, gravy, pinto beans, coleslaw, peas and carrots, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — Caribbean jerk chicken, jalapeno cornbread, beef porcupines, chicken enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, corn, peas, baked beans, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.